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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/814,673	03/22/2001	Matthew Murasko	391133	7663

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EXAMINER

BERCK, KENNETH A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2879

DATE MAILED: 12/17/2003 /

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/814,673

Applicant(s)

MURASKO ET AL.

Examiner

Ken A Berck

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 and 15-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 and 15-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Amendment B, filed July 15, 2003 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3-4, 6, 8-9, 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Calamia et al (US 4,999,936) in view of Hoffman (US 5533289) and Burrows (US 5,856,031).

Regarding claims 1 and 12-13, Calamia discloses a sign (figs 1-2) with a surface having a perimeter with a design coupled thereto with a first electrode (42) formed on the sign surface, the first electrode having a first lead that extends to a perimeter of the surface of the sign, a luminescent layer (18) substantially aligned with the first electrode, a conductor layer substantially aligned with the luminescent layer, a second electrode (40) having a second lead that extends to the perimeter of the sign surface, an interconnect tab (52) and a connector for releasably mating with the tab portion and providing power to the electrodes.

Calamia fails to clearly point out a dielectric layer and the interconnect tab portion located at the perimeter of the sign surface and supporting at least a portion of one of the leads.

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Hoffman discloses (figs 1-3) an interconnect tab portion (26) located at the perimeter of the sign surface supporting at least a portion of at least one of the first or second leads (264, fig 5) and a connector (44) configured for releasably mating with the tab portion and for providing electrical power to the first electrode and the second electrode in order to provide an easily assembled illuminated sign with convenient mounting.

Hoffman fails to clearly point out a dielectric layer.

Burrows discloses (15) a dielectric layer of barium-titanate with an exposed dielectric layer in order to separate the electrodes composed of silver.

Hence it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the sign of Calamia with the an interconnect tab portion located at the perimeter of the sign surface supporting at least a portion of at least one of the first or second leads and a connector configured for releasably mating with the tab portion and for providing electrical power to the first electrode and the second electrode in order to provide an easily assembled illuminated sign with convenient mounting, as taught by Hoffman, and a dielectric layer of barium-titanate with an exposed dielectric layer in order to separate the electrodes, as taught by Burrows.

Regarding claims 3 and 8, Calamia and Burrows discloses all of the above claim limitations but fail to clearly point out a key pin.

Hoffman discloses (fig 1) the connector (44) includes a key pin (the end of electrode 28) for aligning the connector with the interconnect tab portion (26) in order to electrically couple the lamp with the power supply.

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Hence it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the sign of Calamia with the connector (44) includes a key pin (the end of electrode 28) for aligning the connector with the interconnect tab portion in order to electrically couple the lamp with the power supply, as taught by Hoffman.

Regarding claims 4 and 9, Calamia discloses (fig 1, 54, 52) the connector (54) includes contacts for the first and second electrodes.

Regarding claims 6 and 11, Calamia and Hoffman disclose all of the above claim limitations but fail to clearly point out a phosphor layer on a dielectric layer and a sealing layer.

Burrows discloses (fig 2) a phosphor layer (14) on a dielectric layer (15) with the exposed ends of the dielectric layer having a sealing layer (12) with a conductor layer (13) and an outlining electrode (11) and a rear electrode (16) screen printed on the substrate in order to provide a unitary carrier compound and for the ability to screen print the system on a variety of substrates.

Hence it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the sign of Calamia and Hoffman with the phosphor layer (14) on a dielectric layer (15) with the exposed ends of the dielectric layer having a sealing layer (12) with a conductor layer (13) and an outlining electrode (11) and a rear electrode (16) screen printed on the substrate in order to provide a unitary carrier compound and for the ability to screen print the system on a variety of substrates, as taught by Burrows.

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Claims 2, 5, 7, 10, 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Calamia et al (US 4,999,936) in view of Hoffman (US 5533289) and Nicholson et al. (US 6414650).

Regarding claims 2, 7 and 18-19, Calamia and Hoffman discloses all of the above claim limitations but fail to clearly point out a locking pin.

Nicholson discloses (fig 41-43) the interconnect tab portion located at the perimeter of the sign surface and supporting at least a portion of one of the leads and a locking pin (582) in order to create a reconfigurable and changeable sign.

Hence it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the sign of Calamia and Hoffman with the interconnect tab portion located at the perimeter of the sign surface and supporting at least a portion of one of the leads and a locking pin in order to create a reconfigurable and changeable sign, as taught by Nicholson.

Regarding claims 5, 10 and 16, Calamia and Hoffman disclose all of the above claim limitations but fail to clearly point out a key positioned between the contacts.

Nicholson discloses (fig 41-43) a key (576) positioned between the contacts (fig 43) with a key slot (fig 42) on the male end for receiving the key pin in order to create a reconfigurable and changeable sign.

Hence it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the sign of Calamia and Hoffman with the key positioned between the contacts with a key slot (fig 42) on the male end for receiving

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the key pin in order to create a reconfigurable and changeable sign, as taught by Nicholson.

Regarding claim 15, Calamia and Hoffman disclose all of the above claim limitations but fail to clearly point out one or more locking holes.

Nicholson discloses (fig 41-43) the interconnect tab portion has one or more locking holes (fig 43) spaced from the male end for receiving the locking pin in order to create a reconfigurable and changeable sign.

Hence it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the sign of Calamia and Hoffman with the interconnect tab portion having one or more locking holes spaced from the male end for receiving the locking pin in order to create a reconfigurable and changeable sign, as taught by Nicholson.

Regarding claim 17, Calamia and Hoffman disclose all of the above claim limitations but fail to clearly point out the interconnected tab portions defined by a pair of spaced, parallel slots.

Nicholson discloses (fig 41-43) the interconnected tab portions defined by a pair of spaced, parallel slots extending inward from the sign perimeter to define a male end and the connector configured to extend into the slots for releasable mating in order to create a reconfigurable and changeable sign.

Hence it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the sign of Calamia and Hoffman with the interconnect tab portion defined by a pair of spaced, parallel slots extending inward from

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the sign perimeter to define a male end and the connector configured to extend into the slots for releasable mating in order to create a reconfigurable and changeable sign, as taught by Nicholson.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-13 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ken A Berck whose telephone number is (703)305-7984. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nimesh Patel can be reached on (703)305-4794. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703)308-7382.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-0956.

Joseph Williams
Joseph Williams


kab